

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

COUNTRY	Indonesia	REPORT NO.	[REDACTED] 25X1A
SUBJECT	Communist Tactics in Chinese Chamber of Commerce Elections, Surabaya	DATE DISTR.	9 April 1953
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PLACE ACQUIRED	[REDACTED]	REFERENCES	[REDACTED] 25X1A

25X1X

1. The sweeping Communist victory in the election of officers in the Surabaya Chinese Chamber of Commerce (Tiong Hua Siang Hwee - 0022/5478/0794/2585) on 8 February 1953 was the result of a carefully planned and well-executed campaign. This was in sharp contrast to the right-wing group. Three men had the responsibility for the campaign.

GO Su Nie (WU Hsu-ch'i - 0702/1645/0120)<sup>1</sup>

KOO Tjie Ing (KAO Chih-jung - 7559/5267/2837)<sup>2</sup>

LIEM Bun Sing (LIN Wen-sheng - 2651/2429/4141)<sup>3</sup>

2. The key factor in the voting was that in past years a substantial majority of the smaller member firms were either completely indifferent or neutral as to the final outcome of the elections. Many of these firms never bothered to vote at all; others were in the habit of submitting signed, blank ballots to the campaign managers of the various candidates, which were then filled in and cast by the managers.<sup>4</sup> In this year's election, the Communist faction carried out a smoothly coordinated campaign to insure that this large bloc of floating votes would be cast for their side.
3. A name list of all members was compiled which was broken down into categories of firms which were either positively in the right-wing, in the left-wing camp or neutral. Teams were then picked to canvass for votes from the doubtful firms. These teams were picked carefully so that canvassers came from the same province in China as the directors of the firms they were to see. A week before the election, immediately after ballots were mailed to member firms, the teams began to work on the doubtful firms, calling on them and subjecting them to

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intensive pro-Communist propaganda.

4. Votes were freely purchased from the smaller and less wealthy firms. At the beginning of the campaign, the price was R 75 per ballot; two days before the election the price was R 250. Right-wing leaders estimate that the Communists spent approximately R 75,000 for pre-election propaganda and the purchase of votes.
5. Of an approximate 850 votes cast, 650 went to pro-Communist candidates. The total membership of the organization is 1,100 firms.

25X1A [REDACTED] Comment. The election is a heavy blow to the Chung Hua Chung Hui (CHCH) since the Chamber of Commerce was the largest and most influential of its member organizations. It is expected that the Chamber will eventually withdraw from the CHCH and join the Szu Hua Ch'iao Lien. In anticipation of this, the CECH is now organizing a Committee for Trade and Industry to perform for its members the functions formerly carried out by the Chamber.

25X1A [REDACTED] Comments

1. [REDACTED] that GO Su Nie (Ngi) was elected first deputy chairman. See that report for other officers elected and the comments for GO's other positions.

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2. KOO Tjic (Tjit) Ing was elected second deputy chairman [REDACTED]. That [REDACTED] the characters for his name were 0702/2885/1628.

25X1A [REDACTED] Comment. KOO is also fourth vice chairman of the Szu Hua Ch'iao Lien and chairman of the Giok Yong Kong Hwee (Yu Jung Kung Hui - 3768/5816/0361/2585), a powerful Communist clan society.

25X1A [REDACTED] Comments

3. LIEM Bun Sing was third vice chairman of the Szu Hua Ch'iao Lien, according to [REDACTED]

4. [REDACTED] in the 25X1A past there has been no competition for the offices since they involve more hard work than prestige. Traditionally the Chamber of Commerce has been non-political, serving its members purely as a spokesman with the Indonesian authorities, [REDACTED] and as a sort of social club.

5. [REDACTED] Comment. R 10,000 were contributed by FU Ke Ing (FU K'o-ying - 0265/0668/5391) from his personal funds. FU, the newly elected chairman, is one of Surabaya's wealthiest pro-communist merchants.

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